common and well known in Massachusetts, yet I have never heard it suspected of deleterious properties.

The flowers of the Apocynum have a power of catching flies and small insects which was ascribed by Dr. Darwin to an irritability in the internal organs. Mr. Curtis in the Botanical magazine, has considered this subject at large, and ascribes the property to a more rational cause. In consequence of the close convergency of the anthers and their adhesion to the stigma, a narrow fissure or slit exists, which becomes more contracted near the top. The insect in search of the honey at the bottom of the flower, inserts his proboscis between the stamens into the cavity within them. In extricating it from this situation the proboscis is sometimes caught in the fissure, and in proportion to the efforts made by the insect to escape it becomes more closely wedged in the upper part of the slit, so that its deliverance by its own powers becomes at length impracticable. Musquitoes, gnats, and small flies are frequently found dead in this confinement.

BOTANICAL REFERENCES.

Apocynum androsæmifolium, Lin. *Sp. pl.*—Curtis, *Botanical Magazine*, t. 280.—Darwin, *Botanic Garden*, ii. 182.—Michaux, *Flora*, i. 121.—Pursh, i. 179.

MEDICAL REFERENCE.

Kalm, *Travels*, iii. 26.

PLATE XXXVI.

Fig. 1. *Branch of Apocynum androsæmifolium.*
Fig. 2. *Pair of follicles.*
Fig. 3. *Cone formed of the united stamens.*
Fig. 4. *Stamen detached.*
Fig. 5. *Side view of the calyx, nectaries and germs.*
Fig. 6. *Front view of the same.*
Fig. 7. *A seed.*

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